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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,537	09/30/2003	Jai N. Subrahmanyam	K35A1176	7661

35219 7590 12/28/2005

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EXAMINER

TUPPER, ROBERT S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2652

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/676,537	Applicant(s) SUBRAHMANYAM ET AL.	
	Examiner Robert S. Tupper	Art Unit 2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-13 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2652

1. Applicant's election with traverse of the species of figure 2 in the reply filed on 9/9/05 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that all the independent claims are generic. This is not found persuasive because it is not a basis for obviating a species requirement.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Applicant states that claims 1-18 read on the elected species. The Examiner does not agree as to claims 10 and 14. The "via" recited in these claims is not disclosed in association with the species of figure 2.

3. Claims 10 and 14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 9/9/05.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 7-9, 11-13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by BENNIN et al (5,645,735).

Note especially figures 1, 4, 6, and 14. BENNIN et al shows a head stack assembly for a disk drive with a combination gimbal/interconnect assembly. The gimbal/interconnect assembly is attached to a load beam (see column 8 lines 19-23 and 47-49). The gimbal/interconnect has a conductive backing layer (see column 8 lines 62-63) and a dielectric layer (42 – also see column 10 lines 27-31). The gimbal/interconnect also includes a ground trace coupled to the slider (see column 13 lines 41-49). The dielectric layer is located between the ground trace and the backing layer. The backing layer is attached to the load beam with a non-conductive adhesive (see column 10 lines 51-65). The suspension assembly includes a swage plate (see figure 1), and the traces extend along the length of the suspension to the swag plate mount area (see figure 1).

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BENNIN et al (5,645,735).

BENNIN et al shows a head stack with head suspension substantially as claimed. BENNIN et al differs in not showing a flex cable assembly attached to the gimbal/interconnect.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a flex cable attached to the gimbal/interconnect of BENNIN et al. The motivation is as follows: some cable assembly is required to complete the circuit between the head(s) and the processing circuitry in all disk drives. Almost universally, this is done using a flex cable. One of ordinary skill in the art would use such a commonly used element where none was shown.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert S. Tupper whose telephone number is 571-272-7581. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM (first Fri off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington can be reached on 571-272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.S. Tupper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert S Tupper
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

rst